

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19-21, and 23-25 as indicated below.

Please add claims 25-30 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-30 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended). A method for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ~~ambulatory surgical~~ medical procedures comprising the steps of:

collecting outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals via one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities;

converting at least some of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with one of the one or more medical procedures ~~from~~ for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes

result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals to a data processor.

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

posting the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

6 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

collecting the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals from at least one user entity at a plurality of discrete intervals.

7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

generating the at least one outcomes monitoring report from at least two of the plurality of discrete intervals.

8 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals ~~from a plurality of~~ located at the one or more user entities; and

individually identifying and converting the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals located at each user entity of the ~~plurality of one or more~~ user entities;

wherein the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals ~~from~~ located at the plurality of one or more user entities comprises the outcomes data group.

9 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected user entity of the ~~plurality of one or more~~ user entities and at least one comparison of the norm to the least one outcomes result for the selected user entity.

10 (Previously Presented). At least one processor readable medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

11 (Currently Amended). A method for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ~~ambulatory~~ surgical procedures comprising the steps of:

collecting primary source surgical procedures outcomes data sets including a plurality of responses to a set of indicators

associated with one or more surgical procedures for a plurality of patients via one or more user interfaces located at one or more surgical centers;

converting at least some of the ~~primary source surgical~~ outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with one of the one or more surgical procedures fro the plurality of patients into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for the plurality of patients;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

12 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the ~~primary source surgical~~ outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for the

plurality of patients to a data processor.

13 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

posting the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

selectively restricting access to the webpage.

16 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

collecting the ~~primary source surgical~~ outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures ~~from a plurality of~~ located at the one or more surgical centers; and

individually identifying and converting the ~~primary source~~ outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the

set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for each surgical center of the ~~plurality of one or more surgical centers~~;

wherein the outcomes data sets including the plurality of responses to the set of indicators associated with the one or more surgical procedures for a plurality of patients from the plurality of one or more surgical centers comprises the outcomes data group.

17 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one outcomes monitoring report includes at least one outcomes result for a selected surgical center of the ~~plurality of one or more surgical centers~~ and at least one comparison of the norm to the selected one of the least one outcomes result for the selected surgical center.

18 (Previously Presented). At least one processor readable medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to execute a computer process for performing the method as recited in claim 11.

19 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ~~ambulatory surgical~~

medical procedures, the apparatus comprising:

a data collection portion including one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities, wherein the data collection portion collects outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals;

a data processor portion ~~wherein the data processor portion receives to receive~~ the outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one of the one or more medical procedures from the data collection portion, ~~and wherein the data processor portion comprises:~~

a converter portion ~~wherein the converter portion to converts~~ at least some of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

a norm establishing portion ~~wherein the norm establishing portion to establishes~~ a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

a comparison portion ~~wherein the comparison portion to compares~~ a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to



the norm; and

a report generation portion ~~wherein the report generation portion to~~ generates at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

20 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a webpage portion ~~wherein the webpage portion to~~ posts the at least one outcomes monitoring report to a webpage.

21 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a security portion, ~~wherein the security portion to~~ selectively restrict access to the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals, the at least one outcomes result and the at least one outcomes monitoring report.

22 (Cancelled).

23 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals are primary source data sets.

24 (Currently Amended). An article of manufacture for collecting and reporting outcomes data for benchmarking ~~ambulatory surgical medical~~ procedures, the article of manufacture comprising:

at least one processor readable medium; and

instructions carried on the at least one processor readable medium;

wherein the instructions are configured to be readable from the at least one processor readable medium by at least one processor and thereby cause the at least one processor to operate so as to:

collect outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals via one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities;

convert at least some of the outcomes data for the one or more indicators sets associated with one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

establish a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the

plurality of individuals;

compare a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generate at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

25 (Currently Amended). At least one processor readable medium for storing a computer program of instructions configured to be readable by at least one processor for instructing the at least one processor to collect and report outcomes data for benchmarking ~~ambulatory surgical~~ medical procedures by performing the steps of:

collecting outcomes data sets for one or more indicators associated with one or more medical procedures for a plurality of individuals via one or more user interfaces located at one or more user entities;

converting at least some of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated with one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals into at least one outcomes result;

establishing a norm based at least in part on an outcomes data group, the outcomes data group comprising a plurality of the outcomes data sets for the one or more indicators associated

with the one of the one or more medical procedures for the plurality of individuals;

comparing a selected one of the at least one outcomes result to the norm; and

generating at least one outcomes monitoring report comprising the selected one of the at least one outcomes result and the norm.

26. (New). The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

27. (New). The method of claim 11, wherein the set of indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

28. (New). The method of claim 19, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

29. (New). The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.

30. (New). The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more indicators including at least one of verbal responses, measured analytical data, and observations of a third-party observer.